

Congressman Cooper's Guide to Washington, D.C.

Guided Tours

these tour requests may also be submitted through our website at www.cooper.house.gov

White House



How to schedule a tour: Please visit our website at www.cooper.house.gov. Be sure to include the group name, number in the group, and the desired dates. *White House tour requests may be placed up to six months in advance.* Tours requests submitted **any later than five months** in advance are generally denied.

Capitol



Description: The Capitol is among the most architecturally impressive and symbolically important buildings in the world. The Senate and the House of Representatives have met here for more than two centuries. Begun in 1793, the Capitol has been built, burnt, rebuilt, extended, and restored; today, it stands as a monument not only to its builders but also to the American people and their government. **Great tour for kids.**

How to Schedule a Tour: Please visit our website at www.cooper.house.gov

Library of Congress



Description: The Library of Congress offers hour-long, fully accessible docent-led tours of the historic Thomas Jefferson Building. During your tour you will learn about the Building's symbolic art and architecture and view the grandeur of the Main Reading Room. Professionally trained docents tell the story of the Library—America's oldest cultural institution—by talking about its history, its collections (including the Gutenberg Bible), and the services provided to Congress and the nation. **Great tour for kids.**

How to Schedule a Tour:

Private Tour: Please visit our website at www.cooper.house.gov

Public Tour: Available starting Wednesday January 21st 10:30 a.m., 11:30a.m., 1:30p.m., 2:30p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing



Description: You'll see millions of dollars being printed during a tour of the BEP. The tour features the various steps of currency production, beginning with large, blank sheets of paper, and ending with wallet-ready bills! As the U.S. Government's security printer, the BEP is responsible for the design, engraving and printing of all U.S. paper currency. A world leader in printing technology, the Bureau also produces portions of U.S. passports, materials for

Homeland Security, military identification cards, Immigration and Naturalization Certificates, White House invitations, Treasury obligations and other U.S. securities. **Great tour for kids.**

How to Schedule a Tour:

Private Tour: Please visit our website at www.cooper.house.gov Tour requests may be submitted up to six months in advance.

Public Tour: Available every 15 minutes from 9:45-10:30 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m.

National Archives



Description: We have historical documents that tell the stories of America's history as a nation and as a people, available to you in 33 locations nationwide. These valuable records are evidence of our national experience. **Great tour for kids.**

Some of the documents include:

- President Ronald Reagan's speech card from remarks made in Berlin, Germany in June 1987 (when the infamous Berlin Wall was still standing), which is marked up to indicate points of emphasis.
- Photographs of child labor conditions at the turn of the 19th century. Children did everything from selling newspapers to shucking oysters to make a few pennies.
- The Zimmerman Telegram, named for German foreign minister Arthur Zimmermann, secretly offered U.S. lands to Mexico in exchange for Mexican support during World War I. The British were able to decipher the code. The telegram helped convince the United States to enter the war in 1917.
- The arrest warrant for Lee Harvey Oswald, the man who was accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas.

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Public Tour: While there are no public tours, the building is open to the public. The building will be open Monday January 19th, as well as on Inauguration Day, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. It will be open Wednesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. and then 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Supreme Court



Description: The Supreme Court is the highest tribunal in the nation for all cases and controversies arising under the Constitution or the laws of the United States. The Court stands as the final arbiter of the law and guardian of constitutional liberties. Its charge, emblazoned over the doors of this building, is to ensure “equal justice under law.”

Some highlights include:

- * The bronze doors at the West front entrance, each of which weighs six and one-half tons. The door panels, sculpted by John Donnelly, Jr., depict historic scenes in the development of law.
- * The grand corridor leading to the Courtroom, known as the Great Hall. Busts of all former Chief Justices are set alternately in niches and on marble pedestals along the side walls. The frieze is decorated with medallion profiles of lawgivers and heraldic devices.
- * The Court Chamber, measuring 82 by 91 feet and rising 44 feet to a coffered ceiling. It is flanked by 24 marble columns. The raised Bench, behind which the Justices sit during sessions, and other furniture in the Courtroom are mahogany. Overhead, along all four sides of the Chamber, are sculpted marble panels depicting legal themes and famous lawgivers.
- * The two marble and bronze spiral staircases. Each ascends five stories and is supported only by the overlapping steps and their extensions into the wall. Few others exist in the world.

How to Schedule a Tour:

Private Tour: For groups 6 or smaller, please visit our website at www.cooper.house.gov

Public Tour: For groups larger than 6, or for those who were not able to get a private tour, public tours are offered every hour on the half hour starting at 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Kennedy Center

Description: A tour of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, situated on the banks of the Potomac River, is a highlight of any visit to Washington, D.C. As the nation's performing arts center and a living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, the Kennedy Center welcomes three million visitors annually.

The tour also includes the majestic Hall of States Hall of Nations and five of the Center's main theaters, including its three grand performance halls (the Concert Hall, Opera House, and Eisenhower Theater). From the magnificent Opera House chandelier, a gift from Austria that measures 50 feet across, to the 3,700 tons of marble from Carrara, Italy, lining the walls of the Hall of Nations, to the gorgeous Israeli

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Lounge, these gems reflect the many extraordinary gifts from the governments of more than 60 countries that make the Kennedy Center truly an international destination.

How to Schedule a Tour:

Private Tour: Please visit our website at www.cooper.house.gov

Public Tour: Will be available but are not a guaranteed. It is recommended you book a private tour. Public tours are available every ten minutes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on throughout the week and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the weekends.

Pentagon



Description: The tour route is approximately one mile in length and lasts for approximately 45 to 60 minutes. Each tour consists of more than 20 pages of script that cover 20 items of interest to include the mission of the Department of Defense and each of its branches of service, and numerous displays that highlight and depict significant moments in military history. ***This tour is not recommended for children***

How to Schedule a Tour: As the Pentagon is not open to the public, you will need to schedule a private tour. Please visit our website at www.cooper.house.gov

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Museums (These you may book/ plan on your own)

Smithsonian Museums



Museums will be open every day. 10-5:30. Some of the museums include:

- American History
- Natural History
- Air and Space
- African Art
- American Indian
- National Portrait Gallery

For more information, visit: <http://www.si.edu/visit/>

International Spy Museum



Description: The International Spy Museum is the first and only public museum in the United States solely dedicated to espionage and the only one in the world to provide a global perspective on this all-but-invisible profession. It features the largest collection of international spy-related artifacts ever placed on public display. The stories of individual spies, told through film, interactives, and state-of-the-art exhibits, provide a dynamic context to foster an understanding of espionage and its impact on current and historic events. In addition to the Museum, the Complex includes a Museum Store, private dining and event facilities, and two

restaurants: Zola and Spy City Cafe. **Great for kids.**

Hours: January 17th-19th 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Last Admission for Permanent Exhibition 6 p.m.)

January 20th-31st 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Last Admission for Permanent Exhibition 4 p.m.)

Price: General Admission Adult (12-64) \$18, Seniors (65) and Active Duty Military \$17, Child (5-11) \$15, Children Under 5 Free.

Operation Spy (recommended for persons 12 and older): Adult (12 and up) \$14

Combination Admission: Adult (12 and up) \$25

For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.spymuseum.org/index.php>

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Newseum



Description: The Newseum — a 250,000-square-foot museum of news — offers visitors an experience that blends five centuries of news history with up-to-the-second technology and hands-on exhibits.

Hours: Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Price: Adults (19-64) \$20, Seniors (65+) Military and Students \$18, Youth (7-18) \$13, Children (6 and younger) Free.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit their website at <http://www.newseum.org/>

Note: Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Purchasing a ticket in advance does not guarantee admission on a specific date or time.

Holocaust Museum



Description: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is America's national institution for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history, and serves as this country's memorial to the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust.

The museum building is organized by the principles it was built to support: education and remembrance. Museum exhibitions, the foundation of our educational presentations, exist on four floors. Many visitors begin with the Permanent Exhibition, which can take up to several hours to tour. Smaller special exhibitions take less time to view and provide microcosmic stories within the greater history. **Great for older children.**

Hours: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day including weekends

Price: Free

For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.ushmm.org/>

FBI and CIA do not offer tours.

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Monuments and Memorials:

Washington Monument



Hours: Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Price: Free, but does require a ticket. The Washington Monument Lodge, located along 15th Street, opens at 8:30 a.m. to distribute tickets for **that day**. One person may pick up as many as six tickets and select the time which they prefer based on what is available.

Tickets may be reserved in advance by visiting the National Park Service ticket website at <http://www.recreation.gov> or by calling 1-877-444-6777. There will be a \$1.50 fee per order to reserve tickets ahead of time. These tickets may be picked up at the will call window of the Washington Monument Lodge on the day of your tour.

Arlington Cemetery



Description: More than four million people visit the cemetery annually, many coming to pay final respects at graveside services, of which nearly 100 are conducted each week, Monday through Friday.

The guard is changed every hour on the hour Oct. 1 to March 31 in an elaborate ritual. From April 1 through September 30, there are more than double the opportunities to view the change because another change is added on the half hour and the cemetery closing time moves

from 5 to 7 p.m.

The cemetery also holds the Tomb of the Unknowns (also known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier).

Hours: Arlington National Cemetery is open to the public at 8 a.m. 365 days a year. From April 1 to Sept. 30 the cemetery closes at 7 p.m.; the other six months it closes at 5 p.m.

African American Civil War Memorial



Description: In January 1999, the African American Civil War Museum opened to the public. Using photographs and documents, the museum helps visitors understand the African American's heroic and largely unknown struggle for freedom for all.

For more information, please visit their website:

<http://www.afroamcivilwar.org/>

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Korean War Memorial



Hours: Daily from 8 a.m. to midnight (except on December 25th)

For additional information, contact: Visitor Information (202) 426-6841

Vietnam War Memorial



Hours: 24 hours a day. Park rangers are on duty from 9:30 a.m. through 11:30 p.m. daily.

World War II Memorial



Hours: 24 hours a day. Park rangers are on duty from 9:30 a.m. through 11:30 p.m. daily.

Lincoln Memorial



Hours: 24 hours a day. Park rangers are on duty from 9:30 a.m. through 11:30 p.m. daily.

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Jefferson Memorial

Hours: 24 hours a day. Park rangers are on duty from 9:30 a.m. through 11:30 p.m. daily.

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Other Tourist Attractions:

Botanic Gardens



Description: Steeped in history, rich with tradition, the United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America. It informs visitors about the importance, and often irreplaceable value, of plants to the well-being of humankind and to earth's fragile ecosystems. The Garden highlights the diversity of plants worldwide, as well as their aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic, and ecological significance.

From jungle to desert to primeval paradise, the indoor gardens and galleries of the Conservatory offer the perfect foil to a winter day or harried schedule. The resplendent diversity of form, color, fruit, and fragrance reminds us that plants make our lives possible and enjoyable. Outdoors, the National Garden offers the finest of Mid-Atlantic plants and Bartholdi Park just across Independence Avenue demonstrates a variety of approaches to the home landscape.

Hours:

- Conservatory Hours: open 10 AM - 5 PM daily, including all weekends & holidays
- National Garden Hours: open 10 AM - 5 PM daily
- Bartholdi Park Hours: open dawn to dusk, daily, including all weekends & holidays

For more information, please visit their website: <http://www.usbg.gov/>

National Zoo



Hours: April through October: Animal exhibits are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day.
November through March: Animal exhibits are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

For more information, please visit their website:
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/>

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Ford's Theater



Description: The National Park Service and Ford's Theatre Society announced that the Ford's Theatre Museum reopened to the public on July 15, 2009. Located below the newly restored Ford's Theatre (511 10th Street NW), the Museum uses 21st-century technology to transport visitors to 19th-century Washington. The museum's remarkable collection of historic artifacts are supplemented with a variety of narrative devices—environmental recreations, videos and three-dimensional figures, bringing to light Abraham Lincoln's presidency and life in Washington, D.C.

Hours: Everyday (except December 25th). The historic site is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Box Office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the event of a performance, the Box Office will remain open until 8 p.m.

Admission: Admission into the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site is free, but a ticket is required for all those over the age of 2 years. Tickets are limited to 6 per person for the same day. To obtain a ticket, please visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/foth/planyourvisit/feesandreservations.htm>

For more information, please visit their website: <http://www.fordstheatre.org/>

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Professional Sports Teams

Basketball - Wizards



For information, visit: http://www.nba.com/wizards/index_main.html

Baseball – Nationals



For further information, visit:

http://washington.nationals.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=was

Football – Redskins



For further information, visit: <http://www.redskins.com/gen/index.jsp>



Hockey -- Capitols

For information, visit: <http://capitals.nhl.com/>

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